Revision of Desk Officer Allowance

1362. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Desk Officers of CSS are still drawing their Desk Officer Allowance at pre-revised rates;

(b) if so, since when the revision is due and whether Government consider the time period being taken by it to decide the matter as reasonable; and

(c) by when the issue is likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Desk Officers are still drawing the Desk Allowance at the pre-revised rates. The issue was examined by a Committee of Secretaries constituted to consider some exceptional issues arising from the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission on a fast track basis. The report of this Committee has been examined in consultation with the concerned Department and all various levels and the final decision is now expected to be taken shortly. The revised quantum of Desk Allowance, as decided, will be made applicable from a retrospective date.

Appointment on compassionate ground

1363. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments on compassionate ground pending in Ministries, Ministry-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay;

(c) whether such dependent persons; can be employed in any office;

(d) if so, where and how; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND. TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): *(a)* Under the existing

scheme, the power to make compassionate appointment has been decentralised and vests in respective Ministry/Department/Head of Department. As such, information in this regard is not centrally collected/maintained.

(b) Appointment on compassionate grounds depends, among other things, on the availability of a vacancy for that purpose, however, the existing scheme provides for consideration of applications received in the previous month during the second week of every month and it envisages grant of compassionate appointment within a year in really deserving cases if vacancy meant for such appointment is available within the prescribed ceiling of 5% of direct recruitment vacancies in Group C/D posts.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Appointment on compassionate grounds can be given anywhere under the Government of India depending upon availability of a suitable vacancy meant for the purpose of compassionate appointment. If sufficient vacancies are not available in any particular office to accommodate really deserving cases within a year, it is open to the administrative Ministry/ Department/Office to take up the *matter* with other Ministries/Departments/ Offices of the Government of India to provide them such appointment at. an early date.

(e) Does not arise.

Reduction in the Length of Service for Voluntary Retirement

1364. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal for downsizing the Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal for reducing the length of service required for seeking voluntary retirement from 20 to 15 years under consideration; and

(d) if not, Government would consider doing it *as* a measure for downsizing the Ministries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Finance (Department of